

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 2, 5, 9, 13, 17 – 19, 23, 27, 40, 41, 44, 51, 54, 60 and 70 are amended. Claims 10 and 12 are cancelled. No claims are added. Claims 1 – 9, 11, 13, 15 – 20, 23, 27 – 61 and 63 – 72 are pending.

Assignee has amended certain claims to more clearly delineate intended subject matter without intending to limit the scope of such claims. Accordingly, such amendments should not be considered to be narrowing amendments. In fact, some amendments actually broaden the affected claims. Accordingly, no prosecution history estoppel should apply as a result of such amendments.

The Examiner objected to claim 17 as including a typographical error in the phrase "ATM trailer cell containing and end-of-message indication." This phrase has been amended to read -- ATM trailer cell containing an end-of-message indication --. Accordingly, Assignee respectfully submits that this objection has been addressed and requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Examiner has deemed claims 1 – 8, 23, 27 – 61 and 63 – 72 allowed. Assignee thanks Examiner for such expeditious allowance of these claims. Examiner has also objected to claims 12 and 13, but has deemed that these claims would be allowed if amended to be in independent form and to include limitations of a base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 9 – 11, 14, 15 and 18 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,946,313 to Allan et al. ("the '313 patent") under 35 USC § 102 (b). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 has been amended to include limitations which are believed to recite at least some of the subject matter in cancelled claim 12 which Examiner has deemed allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Assignee respectfully submits that claim 9, and claims 11 and 13 – 17 depending therefrom, distinguish over the '313 patent. Claim 18 has also been amended to include limitations which are believed to recite at least some of the subject matter in cancelled claim 12 which Examiner has deemed allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Assignee respectfully submits that claim 18, and claims 19 and 20 depending therefrom, distinguish over the '313 patent.

The Examiner rejected claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 as being obvious in view of the '313 patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,793,427 to Mills et al. ("the '427 patent") under 35 USC § 103 (a). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 9, which has been amended to include limitations directed to subject matter similar to subject matter of cancelled claim 12 which was deemed allowable subject matter. Assignee respectfully submits that the '427 patent does not make up for the deficiencies of the '313 patent in meeting the limitations of claims 16 and 17. Also, claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18, which has been amended to include limitations directed to subject matter of cancelled claim 12 which was deemed allowable. Accordingly, Assignee respectfully submits that claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 distinguish over the '313 and '427 patents.

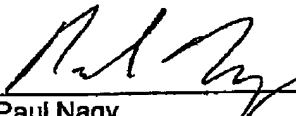
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Consideration of this response and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

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